THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government's decision for equity infusion of Rs. 325 crores in Indian Airlines in the form of margin money for acquisition/replacement of aircraft has not been reviewed. Government has not received any proposal from Indian Airlines so far.

Passengers Brought Back from the Hijacked IA Plane In Dubai

1236. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passengers carried back by the Civil Aviation Minister from Dubai Airport after the Indian Airlines aircraft was hijacked to Kandhar; and

(b) the attempts made to assuage the feelings of the relatives of the captive passengers?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) 27 passengers and dead body of one passenger were brought back from Dubai by the Civil Aviation Minister.

(b) Following facilitation measures were taken for the relatives of the captive passengers:

(i) Control Rooms were set up at International airports in Delhi and Kathmandu, domestic airports in Delhi, Calcutta, Chennai, Mumbai and in Hotel Centuar, Delhi, round-the-clock to facilitate flow of information for the relatives of the hostages.

(ii) A team of officers drawn from Ministry of Civil Aviation, Ministry of External Affairs, DGCA and Indian Airlines was deputed to brief the relatives.

(iii) Relatives waiting at the airport were extended normal courtesies like meals, snacks, refreshments etc.

(iv) Relatives from outstations were provided hotel accommodation, meals, telephone facilities etc. till 31.12.1999.

(v) To and from complimentary tickets were issued by Indian Airlines to the relatives of passengers who wished to come to Delhi.

(vi) Information was passed on to the relatives on telephone numbers available with Indian Airlines.

(vii) Relatives of one passenger who was released at Kandahar and brought to Lahore for medical treatment, were provided to and from air tickets for Pakistan, hotel accommodation and transportation etc.

Expansion of Speed Post Service in Nagpur

1237. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of post offices in Nagpur, Maharashtra, which are having Speed Post Service;

(b) whether post offices are getting competition from courier service;

(c) whether Government propose to expand speed post service in Nagpur in near future; and

(d) if so, the details there of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The details of post offices in Nagpur, Maharashtra having Speed Post Service are given in Statement. (*See* below)

(b) Yes, Madam, Post Offices are competing with courier service.

(c) and (d) Expansion of Speed Post service is an on-going process depending upon market situation. In Nagpur during 1999-2000 facility of Speed Post booking has been extended to following 8 centres-Nagpur RMS (Railway Station), Vayusenanagar, Koradi Thermal Power Station Nagpur Air Sorting (Saraf Chamber, Sadar) Nagpur, Nagpur Airport, Ambajhari Defence Project, Indian Bureau of Mines and Industrial Area Butibouri.

Statement

Details of post offices having speed post service in Nagpur

Ayodhya Nagar, Dhantoli, Ganjiipeth, Hitawada, Katol Road Medical College, National Academy of Director Taxes, Nagpur GPO, Ranapratapnagar Shanichara, Shankarnagar, Vivekanandnagar, National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Mahal, Nagpur RMS (Railway Station) Industrial Area, Vayusenanagar, Koradi Thermal Power Station, Kamthi City, Bagadganj, Dr. Ambedkar Marg, Hanumannagar, Kasturchand Park, Mahatma Phule Bazar, Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation PO, Nagpur